

Appl. No. 10/665,949
Atty. Docket No. 9365Q
Response dated October 31, 2007
In response to Office Action of August 15, 2007
Customer No. 27752

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AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

This Listing of Claims will replace all prior versions and listings of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims

1. (Currently Amended) A method for making an edge fold on an absorbent article having longitudinal edges comprising the steps of:
 incrementally stretching a portion of the absorbent article ~~along a longitudinal edge~~ to form an activated portion disposed laterally inboard to and offset from a longitudinal edge of the article;
 folding at least a portion of the activated portion to form a folded portion with a folded portion length; and
 bonding the folded portion along substantially all of the folded portion length to form an edge fold with substantially uniform gathers.
2. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 1 further comprising the step of cutting a portion of the absorbent article before the step of folding, wherein the cutting forms a cut disposed laterally inboard to and substantially parallel to the longitudinal edge.
3. (Canceled)
4. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 1 wherein the step of incremental stretching includes applying heat to the absorbent article to assist in the incremental stretching.
5. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 4 further comprising applying heat to the absorbent article before the step of incremental stretching to assist in the incremental stretching.

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6-7 (Canceled)

8. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 1 wherein the step of folding includes folding to form a substantially curved folded portion.

9. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 1 wherein the step of incremental stretching includes creating substantially uniform gathers by using teeth tips on tooling.

10. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 1 wherein the step of bonding is selected from the group including adhesive bonding, ultrasonic bonding, compression bonding, thermal bonding, radio frequency bonding, infrared bonding and combinations thereof.

11. (Original) The method of claim 1 wherein the absorbent article is disposable.

12. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 1 wherein the absorbent article is selected from the group including disposable diapers, sanitary napkins, pantliners, incontinence briefs, and incontinence undergarments.

13. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 1 wherein the step of incremental stretching includes incremental stretching a portion of the absorbent article which substantially extends between a pair of side panels to form the activated portion.

14. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 1 wherein the step of folding includes folding a portion of the absorbent article which substantially extends between a pair of side panels to form the activated portion.

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15-21 (Canceled)

22. (New) A method for making an edge fold on an absorbent article comprising the steps of:

incrementally stretching a portion of the absorbent article to form an activated portion, wherein an overall shape of the activated portion is substantially arched;
folding at least a portion of the activated portion to form a folded portion with a folded portion length; and
bonding the folded portion along substantially all of the folded portion length to form an edge fold with substantially uniform gathers.

23. (New) The method of claim 22, wherein the the step of incrementally stretching includes incrementally stretching to form the activated portion, wherein the activated portion extends to a longitudinal edge of the article.

24. (New) The method of claim 22, wherein the the step of incrementally stretching includes incrementally stretching to form the activated portion, wherein the activated portion is laterally inboard to and offset from a longitudinal edge of the article.

25. (New) A method for making an edge fold on an absorbent article comprising the steps of:

incrementally stretching a portion of the absorbent article along a longitudinal edge to form an activated portion;
while the longitudinal edge is uncut, folding at least a portion of the activated portion to form a folded portion with a folded portion length; and
bonding the folded portion along substantially all of the folded portion length to form an edge fold with substantially uniform gathers.

26. (New) A method for making an edge fold on an absorbent article comprising the steps of:

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incrementally stretching a portion of the absorbent article along a longitudinal edge to form an activated portion;

folding at least a portion of the activated portion to form a folded portion with substantially curved shape and a folded portion length; and

bonding the folded portion along substantially all of the folded portion length to form an edge fold with substantially uniform gathers.